

Trayvon Martin, The Whole Story

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CHAPTER ONE:

Trayvon Martin was a seventeen-year-old black youth who, on Feb. 26, 2012, was walking home from a 7-Eleven in Sanford, Florida, with a bag of Skittles and a bottle of iced tea.

As he walked, he was speaking on his cell-phone with his girl-friend, who at her family's request, has asked the press to maintain her name confidential. George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watchman of white and Latino heritage, though advised by police not to pursue Trayvon on his own, got out of his car carrying his 9-millimeter handgun.

Trayvon Martin was returning to a friend's home in the gated Florida community of Sanford on Feb. 26, 2012. Zimmerman was acting as a neighborhood watchman. Zimmerman saw him and called police, describing the teen as suspicious.

He began to follow Martin, and continued speaking with police, who warned him repeatedly not to approach Martin. Martin, at that time, was talking on the phone with a 16-year old female friend, who told ABC News that she urged Martin to run.

She said she heard some pushing, and then the line went dead.

"He said this man was watching him, so he put his hoodie on. He said he lost the man," the girl told ABC News. "I asked Trayvon to run, and he said he was going to walk fast. I told him to run but he said he was not going to run."

After exchanging a few words [and after a 'confrontation', according to Zimmerman] Zimmerman shot and killed Trayvon.

Martin, who was a seventeen-year-old African-American, was unarmed when he was shot by George Zimmerman. Zimmerman maintains he shot the boy in self-defense after he followed Martin while he was serving on a neighborhood watch; As of March 25, 2012, He had not been arrested.

The girl with whom Trayvon was speaking on his cell phone at the time, told ABC News that she was talking to Martin when he said he believed he was being followed. "He said this man was watching him, so he put his hoodie on," the girl said. She then heard Trayvon say to the man, "What are you following me for?" The man then reportedly said, "What are you doing around here?" The girl said she believes somebody then pushed Martin because she heard his earpiece fall, and then the line went dead.

Zimmerman had contacted police to alert them to Martin's presence in the neighborhood, reporting him as a young black male who was acting suspiciously.

When Zimmerman first called the police about Trayvon Martin, he said: "There's a real suspicious guy. This guy looks like he's up to no good, on drugs or something. It's raining, and he's just walking around looking about." Writer E.J. Graff termed this "Walking While Black." In other words, Trayvon was presumed to be guilty of something evil simply because of the color of his skin. Some who've listened to the tape of Zimmerman's 911 call believe they heard him use an obscenity and a racial slur. He further stated that the person he was observing had his hand in his waistband, was holding something in his other hand, and was walking around slowly in the rain looking at houses. The dispatcher recommended that he not take any action, and

informed him that police were on the way. Zimmerman reported that Martin had started running. The dispatcher asked him if he was in pursuit and he affirmed that he was. The dispatcher informed him that pursuit was not necessary, saying "We don't need you to do that." Zimmerman affirmed "OK" and made arrangements to meet with police when they arrived.

There is dispute about whether Zimmerman used racial slurs about Trayvon during his calls to the police. Words used may have included 'coon' or 'goon', 'punk', and so forth.

At the time of the incident, Zimmerman was 5 ft 9 in (1.75 m) tall, and weighed approximately 250 lb (110 kg). Trayvon was 6' 3" and weighing 140 pounds at the time of his death. He had played some football in High School. Shortly around the time of the shooting witnesses heard someone crying out for help. After the shooting, Zimmerman told police who arrived at the scene that it was he who had been crying out for help. The statement was corroborated by a [supposed] eyewitness who claimed that Martin was on top of Zimmerman, beating him, as Zimmerman called for help. One witness, who had only heard but not seen the events, believed Martin was the one who had been calling for help. This witness claimed that the police questioned her in a manner so as to induce her to "correct" her story, to say that Zimmerman was the one who had been calling for help. Another witness who also heard but did not see the events, Mary Cutcher, claimed that she believed the cry was from Martin; She said that she did not believe that Zimmerman acted in self-defense, contending that she and her roommate heard Martin cry out, followed by a gunshot, whereupon they saw Zimmerman standing over his body.

Seminole County state attorney Norm Wolfinger announced on March 20, 2012, that he would bring the case before a grand jury in April. If Martin's girlfriend testifies in April about what she heard the day of the shooting, about what Trayvon told her over his cell-phone, it could undermine Zimmerman's claim to the police that he opened fire on Martin because he feared for his own safety.

CHAPTER TWO:

Trayvon Benjamin Martin (February 5, 1995 – February 26, 2012) was the son of Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin. He was 17 years old, 6' 3" and weighing 140 pounds at the time of his death. His parents had divorced in 1999; his mother is a Miami-Dade government employee and his father is a truck driver.

His nickname is Slimm. Trayvon lived with his mother and older brother in Miami Gardens, Florida. He had transferred from Miami Carol City High School during his sophomore year to Michael Krop Senior High, where he was a junior. He was visiting his father and his father's fiancée, Brandi Green, at her rented townhome in Sanford, Florida, on the day he was killed. He

had been suspended from school for 10 days because he was late too many times, according to a teacher. His father said the suspension was because he was in an unauthorized area on school property, but he declined to offer more details. Trayvon Martin had no criminal record. His English teacher, Michelle Kypriss, reported him as being "an A and B student who majored in cheerfulnesswas not a violent or dangerous childnot known for misbehaving."

Trayvon Martin had been suspended from school for marijuana when the unarmed teenager was shot to death by a neighborhood watch volunteer, a family spokesman said Monday.

Later information revealed that Martin, 17, had been suspended by Miami-Dade County schools because traces of marijuana had been found in a plastic baggie in his book bag.

A family spokesman, Ryan Julison, came forward with this information after police had leaked information tying the school suspension to marijuana.

Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton, and family attorneys blamed police for leaking the information about the marijuana to the news media in an effort to demonize the teenager.

"The only comment that I have right now is that they killed my son and now they're trying to kill his reputation," Fulton told reporters.

CHAPTER THREE:

Zimmerman was reportedly charged with assault on a police officer in 2005, when he was 21, after a scuffle with police over the arrest of one of his friends for underage drinking in a local bar. He accepted a pre-trial diversion that kept him from being convicted of a felony – an outcome that might have prevented him from receiving a permit to carry a gun.

After fatally shooting Trayvon Martin, Florida community watch captain George Zimmerman "couldn't stop crying," according to Joe Oliver, a family friend who spoke with him shortly afterwards.

Joe Oliver told 'Good Morning America' that "After this started – the reports I got – [Zimmerman] "couldn't stop crying."

Oliver, who said he is a close friend of the family, said Zimmerman has gone into hiding, fears for his life, and is "just now becoming aware of how big this has gotten."

Oliver, who has known Zimmerman for six years, said he has been in regular contact with members of Zimmerman's family, who have spoken with him about Zimmerman's day-to-day

reactions. The Trayvon Martin case has grown into a national debate on issues of gun-control, race-relations, gun-use laws, and criminal justice.

On Saturday, March 24, 2012, the militant New Black Panther Party offered a \$10,000 bounty for Zimmerman's "capture."

Oliver said that in late March, Zimmerman contacted a number of his friends, asking them to speak publicly in his defense, but that each of them declined his request, fearing for their own safety.

The Orlando Sentinel reported in March that Zimmerman told police he lost Martin in the neighborhood and was walking back to his vehicle when the youth approached him from behind. The two exchanged words, Zimmerman said, and Martin then punched him in the nose, jumped on top of him and began banging his head on a sidewalk. Zimmerman said he began crying for help; Martin's family thinks it was their son who was crying out. Witness accounts differ.

In 2005, a woman filed a petition for an injunction against Zimmerman, claiming that he came to her house and became violent when she told him to leave, the Orlando Sentinel reports. Zimmerman, 21 at the time, filed a petition of his own in response.

Just a month before that, the paper reports, Zimmerman was at a bar near the University of Central Florida when a friend was arrested on suspicion of serving minors. Zimmerman became profane and pushed a law enforcement agent who tried to escort him away. He was arrested after a short struggle. That arrest had been reported previously.

In both cases, injunctions have kept the cases' outcomes sealed.

Zimmerman, 28, was born in Virginia, aspired to be a law enforcement officer, and moved with his family to Florida about a decade ago. Though he appears not to have been an official member of the national Neighborhood Watch program, he was zealous, perhaps over-zealous, about patrolling his Sanford community, neighbors say.

CHAPTER FOUR:

The Reverend Al Sharpton awoke on the morning of March 22nd to learn that his 87-year-old mother, Ada Sharpton, had lost her battle with Alzheimer's disease and dementia in Dothan, Alabama. But the civil rights activist and MSNBC host had little time to privately grieve her passing. He quickly headed off to Florida, by plane, where he lead a rally that Thursday night to protest police handling of the case of Trayvon Martin. The 7 p.m. Sanford, Florida rally was

originally scheduled to be held at First Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, but the venue was changed to Fort Mellon Park, a large park along the lakeshore, to accommodate a crowd that was amassing early in anticipation.

Asked whether Sharpton's role in the case grants him standing as the nation's reigning civil rights leader, professor Leland Ware, a civil rights expert at the University of Delaware, cautioned against overstating Sharpton's profile amid many champions of the cause. "Al Sharpton is merely one of many civil rights leaders," Ware said to The Times in an e-mail. "There are leaders of organizations such as the NAACP, Urban League, as well as a host of black elected officials. Sharpton is highly visible but he is not the 'reigning' civil rights leader. There is no single individual who could claim that title."

Nonetheless, the rally undoubtedly boosted Sharpton's national profile and was a far cry from the days when he was known for wearing colorful tracksuits and a bouffant hairdo, playing the firebrand in the still-controversial case of Tawana Brawley. There was also a 2004 run for president by the reverend.

At the rally, civil rights leader Al Sharpton helped lead the charge, demanding the arrest of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in 17-year-old Trayvon Martin's killing in Sanford. "We cannot allow a precedent when a man can just kill one of us ... and then walk out with the murder weapon," Sharpton said, flanked by Martin's parents and a stage full of supporters. "We don't want 'good enough', we want George Zimmerman in court with handcuffs behind his back."

Martin Luther King III also spoke at the March 22 rally. Martin Luther King III was born October 23, 1957. He is an American human rights advocate and community activist. He is the eldest son and oldest living child of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King. His siblings are Dexter Scott King, Rev. Bernice Albertine King, and the late Yolanda Denise King. In 1997, King was unanimously elected to head the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a civil rights organization founded by his father. King was the fourth president of the group, which sought to fight police brutality and start new local chapters during the first years of his tenure. Under King's leadership, the SCLC held hearings on police brutality, organized a rally for the 37th anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech and launched a successful campaign to change the Georgia state flag, which previously featured a large Confederate cross. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference suspended King from the presidency in June 2001, concerned that he was letting the organization drift into inaction; King was reinstated only one week later after promising to take a more active role.

King left the SCLC in January, 2004 to serve as president and chief executive officer of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change with his brother, Dexter Scott King serving as chairman.

Martin Luther King III had also spoken on behalf of the 2008 Democratic Party presidential nominee, Senator Barack Obama, at the Democratic National Convention on August 28, 2008. King said there that his father would be "proud of Barack Obama, proud of the party that

nominated him, and proud of the America that will elect him." But he also warned that his father's dream would not be completely fulfilled even if Obama wins the presidency. King said the country was suffering from a poor health care system, education system, housing market and justice system and that "we all have to roll up our sleeves and do work to ensure that the dream that he shared can be fulfilled."

Dick Gregory, a comedian who uses humor to convey his civil rights message, said the steady pressure should be the goal going forward. "All you have to do is be a turtle," he said. "Hard on the outside, soft on the inside and willing to stick your neck out."

The parents of Trayvon joined a "million hoodie" march in Union Square, New York City, Wednesday, March 21, 2012, demanding the shooter's arrest.

"Our son is your son," Trayvon Martin's mom Sybrina Fulton told a big crowd. "This is not a black and white thing. This is a right and wrong thing." The demonstrators burst into a chant of "Justice for Trayvon!"

"My heart is in pain. But seeing the support from all of you, really makes a difference," she said. Demonstrators wearing hoodies took turns calling out "Am I suspicious?"

CHAPTER FIVE:

Florida's increasingly controversial "stand your ground" law was passed in 2005, eliminating the requirement that a person seek an alternative – like fleeing – before using force if they felt they were in physical danger.

The National Rifle Association and other advocates had argued that citizens were being arrested for merely defending themselves.

Florida, like many other states, has long held that citizens have the right to defend themselves in their own homes. Court rulings have expanded that right to include employees in workplaces and drivers in their cars. But there was long a reluctance to extend those rights to public places, so judges had ruled that citizens under threat must make some alternative attempt to violence to escape danger.

In 2005, the Florida House of Representatives voted 94-20 in favor of a new, 'stand your ground' bill that eliminated the requirement to flee.

The shooting has sparked a national debate over not only race but also the "Stand Your Ground" gun law that exists in Florida and 20 other states. The law, which is heavily backed by the

National Rifle Association, gives local police the authority to make the call on whether to arrest a person making a self-defense claim.

Police didn't arrest George Zimmerman. They didn't arrest him after he got off his car, shot and killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, who was unarmed and on his way back from the store after buying some snacks. They didn't arrest him after 9-11 calls emerged in which police advise Zimmerman, who was on Neighborhood Watch patrol, not to follow Martin.

Sanford, Florida police said Zimmerman has claimed self defense, so they've handed the case over to the state attorney.

But Florida law may mean prosecuting Zimmerman could prove difficult.

"As long as you are somewhere you have a lawful right to be, if someone attacks you, the words of the statute are you can meet force with force, including deadly force, if you reasonably believe that that is necessary," Jeffrey Bellin, who teaches law at Southern Methodist University, said.

That law is known as the "Stand Your Ground," or "Shoot First" law and it's been controversial since it was passed in 2005. Basically, The Christian Science Monitor reports, the law gets rid of the English Law concept of "duty to retreat" from a situation that is dangerous outside your home.

Bellin told the Monitor that the law makes judging self defense harder for prosecutors because it could potentially negate "the extent to which a person claiming self-defense may have aggravated the situation." Another problem is that when one person shoots and kills another person, the dead person is no longer available to give his or her side of the story. If no other witnesses were present, and no video cameras recorded the action, then who is left to say whether the shooter is telling the truth or not? Who is left to contradict the shooter and say he or she has twisted or fabricated the story of what actually occurred?

"It's hard to imagine that this could not have been resolved by Zimmerman leaving, so that no one would have gotten hurt, so this is a case where the Stand Your Ground law can actually make a legal difference," Bellin told the paper. "Even if you have suspicions about what motivated this, and you think there was a racial element and no justification for this shooting, the fact is Zimmerman had no obligation to retreat under the law. If prosecutors don't have the evidence to disprove the claim of self-defense, they won't be able to win." It is not at all clear whether a 'stand your ground' defense would work against Federal criminal charges in Florida. The United States judicial system is divided into state and federal courts. Whether a person accused of a crime (particularly drug-related crimes) is prosecuted in the federal or state criminal system depends on what laws were violated and the policies and procedures of each court system. Out of the millions of felony prosecutions filed each year, only about three percent are filed in the federal system. Often a particular criminal behavior will violate both a state and a federal law; the most frequently charged crimes that fall under both jurisdictions

involve controlled substance violations (drug crimes) and drug conspiracy.

The Orlando Sentinel reports that claims of self defense ballooned after the law passed.

"Some Orlando-area police agencies simply stopped investigating shootings involving self-defense claims and referred them directly to state prosecutors to decide," the paper reports.

Back in 2010, The Tampa Bay Times took at comprehensive look at the law. It found that reports of "justifiable homicides tripled after the law went into effect."

The paper added: "Last year, twice a week, on average, someone's killing was considered warranted the self-defense law, known as 'stand your ground', has been invoked in at least 93 cases with 65 deaths, a St. Petersburg Times review found. It is not clear from the times story whether all those deaths occurred in Florida, or if data from other states was also included. Sixteen states have followed Florida's lead since 2005 enacting "stand your ground" laws.

"In the majority of the cases, the person's use of force was excused by prosecutors and the courts."

In fact, according to The Sun Sentinel, the Florida Supreme Court decided a judge should evaluate a defendant's claim of self defense before he goes to trial. In other words, a judge not a jury usually decides if a killing was in self defense.

Critics of the law call it the "right-to-commit-murder law," saying it has turned Florida into the Wild West. Supporters say it helps deter crime.

In its story, The Tampa Bay Times discusses the law in connection with another case: Trevor Dooley went to a park with gun. He had a permit. David James, a decorated U.S. Air Force serviceman went to the park with his 8-year-old daughter.

The two men argued over a kid on a skateboard when Dooley tried to enforce the rules. James, said Dooley, lunged at him so he shot him. James died in front of his 8-year-old daughter.

"What was James, 41, thinking when he lunged toward Dooley? What was Dooley thinking James was thinking?

"Did Dooley 'reasonably believe' that the younger, bigger, stronger man would take his gun and harm him? "Only he knows.

"And whether he is punished for gunning down a father in front of his daughter in a park on a sunny Sunday afternoon will more than likely come down to what he says he was thinking in those few seconds before a man died."

The U.S. Justice Department could bring a hate crime charge against the shooter in the killing of black Florida teenager Trayvon Martin if there is sufficient evidence the slaying was motivated

by racial bias and not simply a fight that spiraled out of control, legal experts and former prosecutors say.

So far, only one such clue has surfaced publicly against 28-year-old George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch captain who fatally shot the 17-year-old Martin on Feb. 26 in the central Florida town of Sanford. On one of his 911 calls to police that night, Zimmerman muttered something under his breath that some listeners say sounds like a racial slur. Zimmerman's father is white, and his mother is Hispanic.

"It sounds pretty obvious to me," said Donald Tibbs, a Drexel University law professor who has closely studied race, civil rights and criminal procedure. "If that was a racial epithet that preceded the attack on Trayvon Martin, we definitely have a hate crime."

Others, however, say the recording is not clear enough to determine what Zimmerman actually said. And many experts say more evidence would be needed that he harbored racial prejudice against black people and went after Martin for that reason alone. There had previously been burglaries in the complex committed by young black males, possibly heightening Zimmerman's suspicions when he spotted Martin.

"They are going to have to show he was specifically targeting this individual based on his race, creed, color, et cetera," said David S. Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor in Miami. "Not that he was chasing somebody down and got in a confrontation that may or may not have been based on that."

Zimmerman's parents, in a letter to a local newspaper, insisted their son is not a racist, and several black residents of the neighborhood where Martin was shot have only good things to say about Zimmerman. Zimmerman has not been charged with any crime and is claiming self-defense under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, which eliminated a person's duty to retreat when threatened with serious bodily harm or death. He claims Martin attacked him as he was walking back to his truck, according to police.

"He's not a racist," attorney Craig Sonner said about his client. "The incident that transpired is not racially motivated or a hate crime in any way."

Those "Stand Your Ground" laws, in place in about two dozen states, have come under increasing scrutiny. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., on Sunday sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder asking for a federal investigation into whether killings are going unprosecuted because the laws put too much of a burden on local authorities.

Martin's parents and hundreds of supporters say Zimmerman should have been immediately arrested and charged with the youth's killing, but local police say they have little evidence to disprove his self-defense claim. A grand jury will be convened April 10 to consider whether to bring state charges, which could include second-degree murder or manslaughter.

After receiving a no-confidence vote from the city commission, Police Chief Bill Lee announced

in March, 2012 that he was temporarily stepping aside from his post. The city manager, Norton Bonaparte Jr., said officials want the case to be resolved fairly.

Civil rights activist Al Sharpton, who has been appearing at rallies with Martin's parents to call for an arrest, said the Justice Department should investigate the case as a hate crime.

"Any time you have a pattern of engagement based on someone's having a particular group in mind, that qualifies for hate crime inquiry," Sharpton told The Associated Press.

The Justice Department's civil rights division and the FBI are conducting their own probe in the case, and a federal hate crimes charge could come out of that no matter what state authorities do. The hate crimes law carries a potential life prison sentence when a death is involved.

Tibbs said one key is determining whether Martin's race alone was the reason Zimmerman decided to follow him in his vehicle. Martin, who was from Miami, was staying in the neighborhood with his father and father's fiancée and was returning from a convenience store with Skittles and a can of iced tea when the confrontation took place. He was not armed.

"He was not suspicious. What makes him suspicious in the moment is the fact that he was black. If Trayvon Martin was white, would any of this have happened?" Tibbs said.

If Zimmerman were a police officer or a government official, he could be prosecuted by the Justice Department for using his official authority to violate Martin's civil rights. That was the case made against Los Angeles police officers who had been acquitted in state court of beating Rodney King, which sparked huge riots. Two of the four officers were eventually convicted of federal civil rights violations.

But Zimmerman was a volunteer watch captain, and even though he had a permit to carry his Kel Tek 9mm semiautomatic handgun, he didn't have any official law enforcement or government authority.

Another possibility is an investigation of the Sanford Police Department itself, including questions about whether any evidence was destroyed or covered up, or whether there has been a pattern of problems involving black people. City officials insist they did an appropriate and thorough investigation, but if such violations occurred federal prosecutors could bring civil rights conspiracy charges against anyone responsible. Bonaparte did acknowledge last week that the police department has had issues with the city's African-American residents.

For instance, in 2010, it took a month for investigators to arrest and charge the son of a police lieutenant who was accused of knocking out a homeless black man. The attack was captured on video.

"This police department, how they've handled this case and how we are hearing of other cases, needs a thorough review by the Justice Department," Sharpton said.

Ultimately, much depends on the results of the state grand jury investigation. If Zimmerman ultimately is charged in Martin's death, the Justice Department may not bring its own separate case depending on the outcome of any trial.

The mere presence of federal investigators could ensure a more thorough probe, said University of Florida law professor Michael Siegel.

"A lot of times when these things are getting potentially explosive, they want to step in and say, 'We're looking over the shoulder of the locals here,'" said Siegel, a former federal prosecutor. "That often helps calm the public down. It does put some pressure on the local law enforcement to take a second look and do it right."

CHAPTER SIX:

The White House struck back at Newt Gingrich on Sunday, March 25, 2012, for the politician's criticism of Obama and his remarks about the Trayvon Martin killing.

The President had said on Friday that "if I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon.I think [Trayvon's parents] are right to expect that all of us as Americans are going to take this with the seriousness it deserves, and we are going to get to the bottom of exactly what happened," Obama said.

Gingrich, in a radio interview that same day, blasted the President's comments as "disgraceful.It's not a question of who that young man looked like," Gingrich said. "Any young American of any ethnic background should be safe, period. We should all be horrified, no matter what the ethnic background. Is the president suggesting that, if it had been a white who'd been shot, that would be OK, because it wouldn't look like him? That's just nonsense."

Gingrich largely defended the Florida 'Stand Your Ground' law, but suggested it did not apply in this case. People "should not be translating 'standing their own ground' into 'pushing somebody else,'" said Gingrich. He added that "apparently the shooter was following the young man -- that's not a stand your own ground, that's a chase the other person into their ground." He said he expected that the law would thus not apply to this case, though he stressed he had not heard the full evidence in the case.

White House senior adviser David Plouffe called the former House Speaker's remarks "reprehensible. ...Speaker Gingrich is clearly in the last throes of his political career," he said on ABC's 'This Week.' "You can make a decision whether to go out with some shred of dignity or say these irresponsible, reckless things, and he's clearly chosen the latter path, and that's

unfortunate for the country."

GOP contender Rick Santorum similarly criticized Obama's "if I had a son" statement. "What the president of the United States should do is try to bring people together, not use these types of horrible and tragic individual cases to try to drive a wedge in America," Santorum said Friday, March 23, on 'The Hugh Hewitt Show,' a radio program.

Plouffe also criticized GOP contender Rick Santorum, who had, similar to Gingrich, criticized Obama's comments about Martin's death. In response to Santorum, Plouffe said that the Republican primary has become a "clown show.....You know, this Republican primary at some points has been more of a circus show," he said on CNN's 'State of the Union.'

After a rally in Shreveport, Louisiana on Friday, March 23, Romney called the murder a "terrible tragedyunnecessary, uncalled for, and inexplicable at this point."

He added that it was "entirely appropriate" for the district attorney to be looking into the matter, and to have called a grand jury investigation in the pursuit of justice.

"Our hearts go out to his family, his loved ones, his friends," Romney said. "This shouldn't have happened." He made no comment as to whether or not the Justice Department should get involved.

Members of the New Black Panther Party offered a \$10,000 reward for the "capture" of George Zimmerman, the Neighborhood Watch volunteer who shot Trayvon Martin.

New Black Panther leader Mikhail Muhammad announced the reward during a protest in Sanford Saturday. And when asked whether he was inciting violence, Muhammad replied defiantly: "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." The bounty announcement came moments after members of the group called for the mobilization of 10,000 black men to capture Zimmerman, who shot Trayvon in a gated Sanford community on Feb. 26. Muhammad said the group's national chairman, Dr. Malik Zulu Shabaz of Washington, D.C., has been receiving donations to the panthers from black entertainers and athletes. They hope to collect at least one-million-dollars before the end of March, 2012. Muhammad said.

The party said they would not release the names of donors nor would they provide documentation to support the existence of donations. The New Black Panthers announced the reward at a protest in Sanford Saturday, the activist group's third protest in the past two weeks over the fatal shooting of the Miami Gardens teen.

The group called for Zimmerman's arrest and threatened to find and detain him if police were not willing to do so. But group members didn't call for the mobilization of thousands until Saturday. Muhammed led the group in chanting "Justice for Trayvon!" and "Black Power!" "If the government won't do the job, we'll do it," Muhammad said, leading his group of eight party members in chants like "freedom or death" and "justice for Trayvon" while making the iconic gesture of raising their fists into the air.

City officials issued a statement, they said was approved by Sanford Police Captain Robert O'Connor, condemning the group's appeal and asking citizens to leave all arrests to them.

"The City is requesting calm heads and no vigilante justice," the statement said. "Attempts by civilians to take any person into custody may result in criminal charges or unnecessary violence."

The party members said they are tired of the inaction of government officials, from Sanford city officials up to the Governor, accusing them of lying and delaying justice. They accused newly-appointed special prosecutor Angela Corley of being an enemy of the black community. "She has a track record of sending innocent young black men and women to prison," he said.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has called the New Black Panther Party, a black-separatist group, "virulently racist" and "anti-Semitic."

CHAPTER SEVEN:

Sanford, called the waterfront gateway to central Florida, is a city in and the county seat of Seminole County, Florida, USA. Seminole County is located between Orange County to the south and Volusia County to the north. It is part of the Greater Orlando metropolitan area. It's largest city is Sanford. As of the 2010 Census, Seminole County's population was 422,718, a 15.75% increase from 2000.

It is a principal city of the Greater Orlando metropolitan area, which was home to 2,134,411 people as of the 2010 U.S. Census.

Also known as the Historic Waterfront Gateway City, Sanford sits on the southern shore of Lake Monroe at the head of navigation on the St. Johns River. The city has a total area of 26.5 square miles (68.63 km²), 22.96 square miles (59.47 km²) of which is land and 3.54 square miles (9.17 km²) of which is water. Sanford is bordered by the communities of Lake Mary to the southwest, and Midway to the northeast. To the north lies Lake Monroe, a medium-sized lake of over fourteen square miles [9,406 Acres]. Lake Monroe is one of the lakes that make up the St. Johns River system.

According to the US Justice Department, in 2010, pharmacies in Sanford, Florida ordered enough painkillers to supply a population eight times its size. in 2010 a single CVS pharmacy in Sanford ordered 1.8 million Oxycodone pills, an average of 137,994 pills a month. DEA investigators serving a warrant to a CVS pharmacy in Sanford on Oct. 18 2011 noted that approximately every third car that came through the drive-thru lane had prescriptions for

oxycodone or hydrocodone. According to the DEA, evidence showed that the drugs were being diverted for street-sales and not used for legitimate pain management; Thus, Sanford was viewed as a hub for illegal drugs.

As of the 2000 census, the city had a total population of 38,291. As of 2004, the population recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau is 45,460.

The 'racial' make-up of Sanford is roughly as follows:

White - 23,508 (47.3%)

Black - 14,811 (29.8%)

Hispanic - 8,659 (17.4%)

Two or more races - 1,376 (2.8%)

Asian - 1,160 (2.3%)

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander - 86 (0.2%)

Other race - 102 (0.2%)

American [Native American] - 48 (0.10%)

In 1946, baseball legend Jackie Robinson was run out of town during spring training. Local authorities did not want to see blacks and whites playing together.

"When Jackie Robinson came out onto the field, the sheriff's department came and protested that the game would not start," Flewellyn says. "So he had to be escorted away from Sanford, and they took him to Daytona."

From the late 19th century until around World War II, Sanford was a major agricultural center in Florida. It was known as the "Celery Capital of the World." Its location on the St. Johns River made Sanford a major port and a bigger city than nearby Orlando for much of the 20th century.

What are gated communities?

More and more people want to reside in gated residential communities. Because of this, gated residential communities and garden apartments across the country are being built at record rates. In the 1970s there were approximately 2000 gated communities nationwide. In the early 2000s, there were over 50,000 gated properties with more being built every year. That equates to about seven million households or 6% of the national total behind walls or fences. About four million of the total is in communities where access is controlled by gates, entry codes, key cards or security guard. Gated communities offer some benefits and some drawbacks depending whether you are a resident or in property management.

All gated and fenced residential communities have several things in common. Gates and fences provide the perception of security, safety, and privacy. In affluent residential neighborhoods, privacy means exclusivity and therefore increased property values. Adding an attractive automatic entry gate system can easily add \$50,000 or more to single family home values within some communities regardless of whether it has any effect on crime.

Large apartment properties often add gate systems as an amenity to attract new residents. Gated communities are desirable to most prospective residents and to most property managers because they can charge a premium for rent. The main purpose of a gate, on a low-crime property, is not to deter or prevent crime but to provide the perception of security and exclusivity. Let's face it, everyone wants to feel good about where they live and a gated community is like a private club where access privileges are required. Any real benefits of crime prevention are a plus.

Still, other apartment communities add gate systems as a barrier to keep criminals off the property and away from rent paying residents. In this setting, the intention is to reduce crime and retain residents by erecting a significant barrier to unauthorized foot and vehicle traffic. Gates are often considered as a cheaper alternative to hiring and managing security guards. Gate installation companies promote this in their marketing and stress the added benefit of liability protection. That is not always sound advice. Gates can also be a barrier to emergency services like the police or fire departments. It is extremely important to have a system in place that allows quick access to them. Most communities use a "Knox Box" key system but there are also universal keypad codes, and restricted radio frequency access.

Do Gates Reduce Crime? This is the most common question that is asked. The answer is always a qualified, yes. Fences and working gates definitely reduce unauthorized vehicle and foot traffic on a property especially late at night and early in the morning. For many properties, traffic reduction alone is enough to reduce much of the parking lot and street crime. Note my emphasis on "working" gates. Swinging gates in a volatile community will have problems being operational 24-hours per day due to abuse and vandalism.

The effectiveness of gates and fencing depends on the nature of the property and the management controls in place. Gates and fencing works best on a stable property with non-criminal, mature residents. If you manage a property that caters to college students it can be a nightmare to maintain an effective gate system. If you intend to install a gate system on a high-crime property that is full of criminal types, drug dealers, and gang members the gated system will be waste of money until you clear the bad element out.

Formidable fencing and gates, by design, restrict access and therefore provide both a physical and psychological barrier for criminals. Good signage is necessary to announce that this is private property and to post your no trespassing policy. Sure, one can tailgate onto a property behind someone else but this requires effort and exposes the criminal to a potential witness. Criminals want to come onto an apartment property anonymously and blend into the

community of strangers. Criminals like quick escape routes and don't want to become trapped behind fences or gates should they be discovered. Many criminals will bypass a gated community for one that is not gated simply because of the restricted access.

Gated communities should not claim to be able to prevent all crimes. Gates and fences is just another tool to help a property manager fight crime. More tools are usually required to do the complete job. Support by the residents and management is required to maintain an effective gate system. Management needs to educate the residents how to properly use the gate system and how to report abuse and damage. Management needs to screen residents and enforce community rules to prevent criminal types from residing on the inside. Residents need to report or challenge unauthorized persons using the gates and not give out gate codes unnecessarily. Management needs to periodically change the master gate code to screen out former repair vendors, a zillion pizza delivery companies, and former residents.

Video surveillance systems work well in support of access control gates. A well-placed video camera can keep an eye on the gated entry areas 24-hours a day and never blink once. Video cameras should be placed in such a manner to be able to identify the vehicle makes and license plates of anyone who approaches. This is a great deterrent to vandalism and is positive proof should a gate be damaged by a careless driver. Because they operate 24-hours a day, a video camera must be protected from the weather and vandalism by a weatherproof housing. The video lens must adjust automatically to the changing lighting conditions for best picture quality. A well-placed sign should announce to all that they are under video surveillance. Of course to capture these images, a commercial grade time-lapse video recorder is required in a environmentally protective enclosure.

Video systems can be integrated with the gate intercom system and allow homeowners to view who is at the gate seeking permission to enter. Technically, video signals from a gate on a west coast property can be monitored by a security firm on the east coast due to the advent of digital and broadband technologies. They can even carry on a conversation with the person desiring access and open the gate remotely for them.

Call them what you will but the function of fencing and gates will define their real purpose. The design is to keep unauthorized people out. There is nothing wrong with believing that having a formidable barrier around your property will help prevent crime...You just can't guarantee it.

The decision to install gates on a property creates a love-hate relationship. Residents love those gates but can be a pain for management to maintain. Gates can help increase occupancy but also can wreak havoc to a community maintenance budget. The net financial effect may be a wash but the difference may be made up in resident retention, the reduction of crime, police calls for service, and property damage.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

It happens all the time. A police officer pulls over a car for a "routine" stop, or a customs officer at an airport or border crossing targets someone for a secondary examination. Usually nothing untoward is found and the person continues on their journey.

But often, when the person singled out is a member of a minority ethnic group, they're left with the feeling that there was nothing random about the closer look – that they were stopped or subjected to extra scrutiny just because of their race or ethnicity.

Some black Americans have a name for the practice. They say they're frequently pulled over for no other reason than being guilty of "DWB" – driving while black.

It's an ugly charge. In a country that prides itself as being a beacon for immigrants and one that celebrates its rich cultural mosaic, the idea that authorities would use the simple visibility of certain minorities as an investigative tool smacks of racism.

Several high-profile media articles have kept the issue very much in the public eye. But it isn't just the news stories. Anecdotal evidence and many surveys in ethnic communities have revealed a deeply-held perception that members of some racial groups are singled out for special attention from authorities.

While police forces routinely deny they practise racial profiling, critics say there's evidence that support its existence. The critics also have their critics, who say the evidence is still unclear.

What is racial profiling?

Law enforcement agencies define it as a racial disparity in police stop and search practices, customs searches at airports and border-crossings, in police patrols in minority neighbourhoods and in undercover activities or sting operations which target particular ethnic groups. Many experts also apply the definition to private security guards, neighborhood-watchmen in gated communities, and so forth.

The Human Rights Commission took a broader approach, defining it as "any action undertaken for reasons of safety, security or public protection that relies on stereotypes about race, colour, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, or place of origin rather than on reasonable suspicion, to single out an individual for greater scrutiny or different treatment."

Racial profiling is usually defined in a law enforcement context. Racial profiling also exists in non-law-enforcement situations; Three examples are: [1] School officials suspend a Latino child for violating the school's zero tolerance policy while a white child's behaviour is excused as being normal child's play, [2] An employer insists on stricter security clearance for a Muslim

employee after the Sept. 11 attacks, [3] A bar refuses to serve aboriginal customers because of a belief they will get drunk and rowdy.

Accusations of differential treatment arise in areas where authorities can exercise their discretion. If police stopped every car, or if customs officers directed everyone for follow-up scrutiny, there would be no talk of racial profiling. But when that discretion is exercised, members of many minority groups feel that they come out with the short end of the baton, that they somehow always have to prove their innocence.

Why is there such opposition to the idea that racial profiling exists?

Racial profiling is based on the assumption that members of certain ethnic groups are disproportionately more likely to be involved in certain criminal activities. If this practice is widely entrenched or officially sanctioned, it also follows that members of non-targeted groups can also expect less police scrutiny.

Since police forces rely on the co-operation of every segment of society, it's not surprising that accusations of any kind of bias are vigorously denied. Police chiefs say their forces try to weed out racists and can often point to disciplinary action or firings related to racist behaviour. But critics say racial profiling is often more subtle and therefore difficult to monitor. Formal stats are often hard to come by and can be open to alternate interpretations. And some people worry that the collection and publication of any race-based data will simply reinforce racial prejudices.

What's the statistical evidence that racial profiling exists?

Since anecdotal evidence appears to not be taken that seriously, the search for more concrete evidence of racial profiling inevitably leads to statistics compiled by police forces themselves. But most police forces in North America don't collect race-based data on such things as traffic stops. That's why a series of articles published in 2002 in the Toronto Star caused such a sensation. The articles were based on stats collected by the police.

Analysis of those figures by Star reporters suggested that blacks in Toronto were over-represented in certain offence categories like drug possession and in what were called "out-of-sight" traffic violations, such as driving without a licence. The analysis also suggested that black suspects were more likely to be held in custody for a bail hearing, while white suspects facing similar charges were more likely to be released at the scene.

The Toronto Police Service commissioned its own report that called the Star's methodology and interpretations "junk science," although that report, too, attracted methodological criticisms.

Kingston police stop a disproportionate number of young black and aboriginal men, according to a racial profiling study. A study of police statistics in Kingston, Ont., released in May 2005 found that young black and aboriginal men were more likely to be stopped than other groups. The data showed that police in the predominantly white city were 3.7 times more likely to stop a

black as a Caucasian, and 1.4 times more likely to stop an aboriginal person than a white.

Many other studies in the United States and Britain suggest that racial profiling does exist. In England, police routinely record the racial background of everyone stopped and searched by police. Stats from 1997-98 found that black people were stopped and searched at a rate of 142 per 1,000. Whites were stopped and searched at a rate of just 19 per 1,000.

Several field studies in Canada have also uncovered evidence that some minority groups, especially black youth, are far more likely to report "involuntary police contact," as one researcher called it, than either whites or Asians.

The Association of Black Law Enforcers, an organization that represents black and minority police and law enforcement officers in Canada, says racial profiling exists.

Is there debate over what the statistics show?

Those on both sides of the question say there are problems with taking the figures on such a complex issue at face value. What does it mean when half the inmates in a provincial jail are aboriginal when they represent only 10 per cent of the community's population? Are aboriginal Canadians committing more crimes or are police simply spending more time in the aboriginal community?

Are the courts and prosecutors more likely to drop charges against white offenders or agree to a plea bargain that keeps whites out of jail? Is it simply a case of whites being rich enough to afford better lawyers than aboriginals and blacks?

Some point out that it's not surprising that certain ethnic groups are over-represented in arrest statistics if their community is subject to much greater police scrutiny. The question is why. Are members of a certain community more targeted because of a belief they're more likely to have done something wrong? Or does the belief that a certain group harbours more lawbreakers merely become a self-fulfilling prophecy because police then target the group for extra scrutiny? Is there any truth to the theory that minorities that are shunted off into lousy schools, given a lousy education, then discriminated against when they seek work, are more likely to be attracted to lives of crime because other avenues have been shut to them?

Some argue that all the debate over whether racial profiling exists is missing the point. They say if a huge portion of an ethnic group believes it exists, then that by definition amounts to a serious problem that must be addressed.

University of Toronto criminologist Scot Wortley wrote that "being stopped and searched by the police ... seems to be experienced by black people as evidence that race still matters in Canadian society. That no matter how well you behave, how hard you try, being black means that you will always be considered one of the 'usual suspects.'"

Wortley argues for more research and more data collection by police forces, saying the refusal

to deal with it will "ensure that the issue of racial discrimination continues to haunt law enforcement agencies for decades to come."

CHAPTER NINE:

There have been previous racial-abuse incidents in the same florida town.

In 2005, two parking lot security guards, one the son of a Sanford police department veteran and the other a volunteer for the department, shot a black teen named Travares McGill in the back, killing him. They claimed self-defense, and the case was dismissed in court.

Brian Tooley, police chief of the city of Sandford in 2011, was forced from office after the son of a lieutenant was caught on camera beating an unsuspecting homeless black man. Law enforcement had declined to prosecute that lieutenant's son for that. After the footage went viral on YouTube, the perpetrator [the lieutenant's son, Justin Collison] was arrested. The officer in charge of that case was also the one in charge of the Trayvon Martin shooting scene.

In late October and mid-November of 1996, there was racially-motivated rioting in St. Petersburg, Florida. Riot-gear-equipped police patrolled a predominantly black neighborhood in South St. Petersburg, after an outbreak of arson and mayhem in which officers and firefighters came under "heavy gunfire."

In the aftermath of the rioting, city officials seemed stunned by the escalation of the violence that has rocked this Gulf Coast city, which until recently was best known for its retirees and sandy beaches. Two police officers were wounded by gunshots, at least 29 homes and commercial buildings were firebombed and destroyed, and clouds of tear gas choked the streets after a grand jury announced, that it had chosen not to indict a white police officer who shot and killed a black motorist in the same neighborhood on October 24th of that same year. That shooting also touched off serious rioting, in October.

"We had a situation last night that we've not seen before in our community," said Police Chief Darrel Stephens. "We had four or five officers pinned down by heavy gunfire. Police returned that gunfire." Miraculously, no one was injured in that exchange, which the chief said was instigated by leaders of the National People's Democratic Uhuru Movement, a black separatist group. "We've got a continuing crisis in our community," Stephens said.

Shortly after the grand jury decision was made known, police attempted to arrest three members of the movement, who police said had threatened to promote violence if no indictment was forthcoming. Those arrests, on misdemeanor traffic warrants, in an already

angry neighborhood, led to a melee that soon turned into full-blown riot as word got out.

In fliers widely distributed in south St Petersburg after October 24th, leaders of the Uhuru Movement had called for the "execution" of Police-Chief Stephens, St. Petersburg Mayor David Fischer and the two officers involved in the fatal shooting of TyRon Lewis, 18, after he was stopped for speeding.

At a press conference after the second spate of rioting, Uhuru leader Omali Yeshitela did not deny that a "people's tribunal" had found the four guilty of "murdering" Lewis, and that the word "execution" had been used; But he said that did not mean citizens were being asked to kill the four men. "Our community has been demonized and criminalized" by the police, said Yeshitela, 55. "You picked the wrong group if you think you could intimidate us."

Stephens refused to second-guess his decision to arrest the Uhuru Movement members, although he acknowledged that the police plan went awry when one of the men to be picked up fled to the movement's headquarters, where a crowd had already gathered. "It was our hope that the arrests would not be made at that location," Stephens said. "But", he said, "I do not believe it was a precipitating event that caused the second outbreak of violence."

On the streets of South St. Petersburg, however, many residents disagreed. Sevell C. Brown III, head of the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, accused the police of "irresponsible behavior" toward the black community with the arrests, as well as by engaging in a pattern of harassment that had gone on for years. TyRon Lewis was perhaps the eighth African-American who died under suspicious circumstances at the hands of law enforcement in the St. Petersburg area during the decade involved.

Stephens' decisions also came under fire Thursday when he faced a City Council meeting. "I'm furious. I am sorry, but I am furious," said Councilwoman Connie Kane. "Why have we waited so long to say that law and order is going to prevail?"

Ironically, relations between police and the black community in St Petersburg had appeared to be improving since Stephens was hired in 1992 to replace Ernest Curtsinger, a onetime Los Angeles police commander known for commando-style tactics. About 20% of the 240,000 residents of St Petersburg were African American in the mid 90s.

In 1964, there were race riots in St. Augustine. TV and movie Films were made to document the violence at that time. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was involved. Apparently, African-Americans were upset that the best parts of the beach were off limits to them, so they staged a 'wade-in' with at least seventy-five persons entering the water. As they tried to enter the water, they were attacked by a large group of whites. Later that same day, in the evening after the sun had gone down, a group of African-Americans marched into downtown St. Augustine to protest their mis-treatment that had occurred at the beach. The protest was to take place outside of a building where whites were meeting to discuss what to do about the 'invasion' by African-Americans of their 'whites-only' beach. The protesting african-Americans were then attacked

by a large group of over 500 whites who had forced their way through the downtown police lines. The twenty-six-minute black-and-white film, with sound [narrator], provides extensive footage of the St. Augustine race riots. In the clip, black demonstrators are attacked on Butler Beach and groups of blacks and whites occupy the streets at night. The complete film shows demonstrations by blacks on Butler Beach in St. Augustine, counter demonstrations by whites, speeches made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and by Governor Farris Bryant, and speeches by segregationists such as Reverend Connie Lynch, Richard "Hoss" Manucy, and Klansman J.B. Stoner. It also includes scenes of the highway patrol sent in to assist local law enforcement officials. To see full-length versions of the film, and other videos from the State Archives of Florida, visit floridamemory.com. Excerpts from the film are on-line on other websites.

On May 17, 1980 a three or four day race riot broke out after an all-white jury acquitted four white Miami police officers of killing Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance salesman. The cops had beaten him with their flashlights and billyclubs, and he died in the hospital. Eighteen fatalities and more than \$100 million in property damage are the final result.

The Miami Riot of 1980 was the first major race riot since the late 1960s. In December 1979, a number of white Miami-Dade police officers were involved in a high speed chase involving black motorist Arthur McDuffie. Police reports said that the chase ended when McDuffie crashed his motorcycle, ultimately leading to his death. However, coroner reports stated that the cause of death was not consistent with a motorcycle crash. Later, a responding officer following the chase testified that there was no crash, and that the police officers had beaten McDuffie to death with their flashlights.

Even with the coroner report and the testimony from police and witnesses, an all-white jury concluded the trial on May 17, 1980 with the acquittal of all officers involved in the McDuffie police brutality case. News spread to the surrounding areas and residents of mostly African American Liberty City, home to half of the city's black and Afro-West Indian residents, took to the streets in protests which soon turned violent as some protesters began throwing objects at passing white motorists who drove through the area. By nightfall on May 17, the violence escalated into a full blown riot as angry blacks attacked motorists fleeing their vehicles. The riot moved into neighboring white business districts and the headquarters of the Dade County Department of Public Safety. The Florida National Guard was then called in to aid the Miami-Dade police force. The Guard and local police blocked off Liberty City and from that point on confined the riot to Liberty City. By May 20th, order was restored. Ten blacks and eight whites died in the Miami Riot. More than 800 people had been arrested in the four day period and the property damage to the area was in excess of \$80 million dollars.

On January 16, 1989, three days of race riots begin in Overtown, Miami, when a black man fleeing on a motorcycle was killed by a hispanic police officer. 125 blocks were sealed off during those riots.

Behind a facade of glitzy beach-front hotels, Miami in the 80s was a seething melting pot of

impoverished blacks and immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. In January, 1989, for the fourth time in a decade, the melting pot boiled over. On the night of the national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and as the city was preparing to play host to the Super Bowl, a Colombian-born policeman shot and killed a black motorcyclist speeding through the streets of Overtown, a ghetto just northwest of downtown. A passenger riding on the rear of the motorcycle was fatally injured in the resulting crash. The incident triggered two nights of arson, looting and random shootings that spread from Overtown to the nearby black ghetto, Liberty City.

By the time the rioting subsided, one looter had been killed, 22 people had been wounded, and property damage was estimated at \$1 million. Police arrested 385, mostly for looting. The toll was modest, compared with the 18 killed, 400 wounded and \$100 million in devastation wrought by the Miami riots of 1980. But like the '80 melee and conflagrations in '82 and '84, the 1989 upheaval brought into sharp focus the tensions that had been growing for nearly three decades between native-born blacks and new arrivals from Cuba, Haiti and later Nicaragua.

The hostilities dated back to 1965, the beginning of a six-year airlift that brought 260,000 refugees from Fidel Castro's Cuba to Miami. Just as the civil rights movement was beginning to open doors for advancement, blacks found themselves competing with the Cubans for jobs, housing and other opportunities. In the seventies and eighties, the number of Hispanics had more than tripled, to 825,000; By 1989, Hispanics outnumbered Miami blacks by 450,000. Cubans had become the dominant economic and political force in Miami. The city's first Cuban-born mayor, Xavier Suarez, 39, was elected in 1985. [A percentage of the immigrants from Cuba, from the Dominican Republic, from Nicaragua, from Colombia, and especially from Panama, also considered themselves 'black' or 'African-American'.]

Blacks, by contrast, had made few economic or political strides. Since 1980, black unemployment in Dade County had risen to 10.4%, and the jobless rate for Hispanics had dropped to 5.8%. While Cubans had expanded their ownership of small businesses, Miami had one of the smallest black professional classes of any city its size. In the late 80s 70,000 hardworking Haitian immigrants had also begun to carve out a niche for themselves. Said Marvin Dunn, a black psychologist who co-authored a study of the 1980 riots: "A larger and larger segment of the black community was falling farther and farther behind the rest of the residents in terms of income and in the quality of life."

Miami in 1989 was in the grip of a new surge of immigration, this time from Nicaragua. Fleeing economic misery and political persecution in that embattled Central American country, as many as 200 refugees a day were hitting town. By the end of 1989, an estimated 100,000 more Nicaraguans were projected to seek refuge in Miami. The city had not experienced such an overwhelming influx since the Mariel boatlift deposited 125,000 Cuban refugees in 1980.

Many blacks charged that the city goes out of its way to provide housing, jobs and social services for the Hispanic immigrants, while ignoring the needs of the black citizenry. "The Nicaraguans

get food, they get clothing," says Vanessa Haynes, 34, a black data-entry officer at the University of Miami. "What do our people get? Nothing!"

To be sure, the newest Nicaraguan refugees hardly had it easy. Impoverished, frightened and confused, many of them were herded into a grimy makeshift shelter at Bobby Maduro Miami Stadium. There, cots were crammed end to end, and families crowded around long tables eating rice and beans, Big Macs, and other offerings from local restaurants. After a few weeks in the stadium, most of the refugees had been moved to apartments and a church shelter.

Working in the refugees' favor was a formidable Hispanic power structure in Miami that had aggressively reached out to new arrivals, trying to integrate them into the city. Miami's blacks, meanwhile, felt that the Hispanic power had conspired to keep them out of the economic mainstream.

Their anger had combined with an epidemic of drug use to turn 'Liberty City' and Overtown, where many buildings were painted gaudy shades of yellow, orange and green, into brightly colored tinderboxes. The rage was compounded by deep-seated animosity toward the police, 43% of whom were Hispanic. Like the 1989 violence, all of Miami's previous riots ignited after white or Hispanic officers shot black suspects. Twice in 1988, Miami police on drug raids busted into the homes of innocent black people. Black citizens accused Hispanic officers of waging a vendetta against black youths.

The shooting of Clement Lloyd reinforced that suspicion. Lloyd, 23, and Allan Blanchard, 24, were tearing through the streets of Overtown on Lloyd's motorcycle. Officer William Lozano spotted the speeding vehicle. Lozano drew his revolver and fired, an apparent violation of the police department policy that prohibits the use of deadly force against traffic violators. According to Lozano's attorney, Lloyd and Blanchard were driving directly toward the policeman, and Lozano acted in self-defense.

The "long hot summer" refers to the summer of 1967, which began a year in which 159 race riots erupted across the United States. In June there were riots in Atlanta, Boston, and Cincinnati, as well as the Buffalo riot in (Buffalo, New York), and a riot in Tampa, Florida. In July there were riots in Birmingham, Chicago, New York, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Britain, Conn., Rochester, N.Y., and a riot in Plainfield, New Jersey. The most serious riots of the summer took place in July, with the riot in Newark, New Jersey and the Twelfth Street Riot, in Detroit, Michigan.

As a result of the rioting in the Summer of 1967, and during the preceding two years, President Johnson established the Kerner Commission to investigate the rioting.

There have been a number of race-related riots in the Tampa area. On June 11, 1967, 19 year old Martin Chambers was suspected of robbing a camera store. Chambers ran from police near Nebraska and Harrison Streets and was shot in the back and died. Several days of riots around Central Avenue followed. State Attorney Paul Antinori ruled the shooting was justifiable. A

1990 investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement also found the shooting justifiable. The case was re-opened in 2007 under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. [Emmett Louis "Bobo" Till (July 25, 1941 – August 28, 1955) was an African American boy from Chicago, Illinois, visiting the south, who was murdered at the age of 14 in Money, Mississippi, a small town in the state's Delta region, after reportedly whistling at a white woman; The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 - Directs the Attorney General to designate a Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Makes the Deputy Chief responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of criminal civil rights statutes in which the alleged violation occurred before January 1, 1970 and resulted in death].

Tampa Riots of 1987: On February 20, 1987, a group of 200 to 400 protesters began rioting after starting a fire in a dumpster at the intersection of 22nd Street and Lake Avenue in the College Hill community in East Tampa. The incident started the night after the death of mentally-handicapped black man, Melvin Eugene Hair. He died after police used a carotid neck-hold on him. Less than 24 hours later, the attorney's office released a report clearing police of racism in the December 1986 arrest of baseball star Dwight Gooden. The incidents sparked three nights of rioting.

Tampa Riots of 1989: Alleged drug dealer Edgar Allen Price was arrested on February 1, 1989. Price scuffled with police, and later died. Word of his death spread in the College Hill community, leading to several nights of violence including the burning down of a local supermarket. The lack of fire stations in the area helped exacerbate the damage. Black residents believed he was beaten to death by police, but an investigation revealed that he died from asphyxiation after having his hands and legs cuffed and placed face down in the back of a police cruiser, possibly being deliberately asphyxiated by his captors.

Parallel rioting occurred in a variety of cities around the US in conjunction with the LA riots over the Rodney King findings, in 1992; Tampa had rioting centered around 22nd street between E Lake and E Frierson Avenues, including burning of at least one vehicle and both direct & indirect attacks on passing traffic in this area, including an attack on news anchor Sheryl Brown. Although there was no local news coverage of the events at the time, the events were covered on various European television news show.

The Escambia High School riots were racially motivated nonviolent and violent demonstrations which occurred in varying forms between 1972 and 1977 at the then-newly desegregated Escambia High School, near Pensacola, Florida. The centerpiece riot, which received the most publicity and was the most violent demonstration, occurred on February 5, 1976.

Escambia High School, formerly an all-white school, was forcibly desegregated in 1969. In the fall of 1972, black students rioted at a home football game for their team, whose mascot was a "Rebel," modelled in appearance after the Colonel Reb of the University of Mississippi. The school band played the official school song, "Dixie," and it was from there that the violence

ensued.

Continuing until the end of the 1972–73 academic year, blacks and other students protested the mascot, school song and use of the Confederate Flag, which was flown at school events and games, on the grounds that the imagery the items brought up were insensitive to black people. On July 24, 1973, a United States District Court ruling deemed all of the aforementioned symbols as "racially irritating" and barred their use at the school level (*Augustus v. School Board of Escambia County*, 361 F. Supp. 383, 1973). At the beginning of the next school year, the name "Raiders" was picked to be the new name for all of Escambia High's athletic teams.

Throughout 1974, the Escambia County School District appealed the decision, and on January 25, 1975, the United States Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the school board, overturning the injunction and decreeing that the school board should be in charge of the matter.

On February 4, 1976, an impromptu school election was held in which students were allowed to vote to either keep the name as "Raiders" or change the name back to "Rebels." The students who preferred "Rebels" failed to secure a supermajority needed to win the ballot. White students complained the vote was "unfair" because there had not been enough advance notice.

The next day, hundreds of white students gathered outside the school and attempted to hoist a Confederate flag on the flagpole. After black students in the school lobby saw the display, a riot erupted. In the ensuing violence, which lasted for four hours, around 30 students were injured and four were shot, including football team quarterback Keith Hughes.

The school suffered extensive damage from the event, with nearly a hundred windows smashed, as well as trophy cases, clocks, water fountains and a water pipe that flooded the building's north wing. Principal Chris Banakas estimated that three-quarters of the 2,523 students who attended Escambia High were involved in the riot. "We ended up with a bunch of whites outside throwing rocks and breaking windows, and a bunch of blacks inside breaking windows," he said.

Several adult instigators from off-campus were arrested. One 18-year-old student and three juveniles were also arrested, and 17 others detained. Many of the students involved later faced disciplinary actions.

State Representative R. W. "Smokey" Peaden arrived at the school during the riot and promised the white students he would demand a new vote on the nickname. "If you want our help, act as adults," he said. "If you act as you've acted this morning, you're liable to not get any help at all." Escambia County Superintendent J. E. Hall cancelled Friday's classes at the school.

The next week, attendance at the school dropped dramatically, especially among black students. There were reports of white students jeering at blacks on the nearly empty buses, and a white youth was found loitering near the school with a length of chain, but no incidents of violence occurred.

In the weeks that followed, however, crosses were burned on many school board members'

yards. One school board member, who was black, was specifically targeted with a gunshot which went through his window. Teresa Hunt, member of the Pensacola-Escambia Human Relations Committee and the school board's Citizens Advisory Committee, was called by telephone to a special meeting on February 21, which turned out to be a hoax, and when she returned her house had been set ablaze. State Representative R. W. Peaden's house was destroyed by arsonists on February 25. After all the retaliatory violence both at the school and in the community, the Florida National Guard was called in to patrol the school until the end of the year.

In the fall of 1976, students chose the name "Gators" after a second ballot was deemed necessary. On July 26, 1977, the Ku Klux Klan held a rally on the school grounds with regards to the issue, which necessitated a reorganization of the school board. The name "Gators" has been used for Escambia High's athletic teams since, without incident.

One of the worst race riots in American history, in which hundreds of angry whites killed an undetermined number of blacks and burnt down their entire Florida community, occurred in Rosewood, Florida. In 1922, Rosewood, Florida, was a small, predominantly black town. During the winter of 1922, two events in the vicinity of Rosewood aggravated local race relations: [1] the murder of a white schoolteacher in nearby Perry, which led to the murder of three blacks, and [2] A large Ku Klux Klan rally in Gainesville on New Year's Eve. The following day, on New Year's Day of 1923, Fannie Taylor, a young white woman living in Sumner, claimed that a black man sexually assaulted her in her home. A small group of whites began searching for a recently escaped black convict named Jesse Hunter, whom they believed to be responsible. They incarcerated one suspected accomplice, Aaron Carrier, and lynched another, Sam Carter. The men then targeted Aaron's cousin Sylvester Carrier, a fur trapper and private music instructor, who was rumored to be harboring Jesse Hunter. A group of 20 to 30 white men went to Sylvester Carrier's house to confront him. They shot his dog, and when his mother, Sarah, stepped outside to talk with the men, they shot her. Sylvester killed two men and wounded four in the shoot-out that ensued. After the men left, the women and children, who prior to this had gathered in Carrier's house for protection, fled to the swamp where the majority of Rosewood's residents had already sought refuge. The white men returned to Carrier's house the following evening. After a brief shoot-out, they entered the house, found the bodies of Sarah Carrier and a black man whom they believed to be Sylvester Carrier, and set the residence on fire. The men then proceeded to rampage through Rosewood, torching other buildings and slaughtering animals. They were joined by a mob of about 200 whites who converged on Rosewood after finding out that a black man had killed two whites. That night two local white train conductors, John and William Bryce, who knew all of Rosewood's residents, picked up the black women and children and took them to Gainesville. John Wright, a white general store owner who hid a number of black women and children in his home during the riot, planned and helped carry out this evacuation effort. The African Americans who escaped by foot headed for Gainesville or for other cities in the northern United States.

By the end of the weekend all of Rosewood was leveled except for the Wright house and the general store. Although the state of Florida claimed that only eight people died in the Rosewood riot, two whites and six blacks, testimonies by survivors suggest that more African Americans perished. No one was charged with the Rosewood murders. After the riot, the town was deserted and even blacks living in surrounding communities moved out of the area.

It is unclear what became of Jesse Hunter. Residents of nearby Cedar Key claimed that he was captured and killed after the massacre. The descendants of the Carrier family contend that Jesse Hunter was not the man who had attacked Taylor. Philomena Carrier, who had been working with her grandmother Sarah Carrier at Fannie Taylor's house at the time of the alleged sexual assault, claimed that the man responsible was a white railroad engineer. She says that the man had come to see Taylor the morning of January 1 after her husband left for work. After an argument erupted between Taylor and the man, Philomena witnessed the man exit the back door and jog down the road toward Rosewood.

The Carriers' descendants maintain that the man was a Mason and that he persuaded Aaron Carrier, a member of Rosewood's black Masonic lodge, to help him escape by appealing to the society's code requiring members to help one another regardless of race. Carrier in turn persuaded another black Mason, Sam Carter, one of the few men in Rosewood with a wagon, to pick up the white man at Carrier's house and drop him off in the swamp. From there the man disappeared without a trace.

Although the Rosewood riot received national coverage in the New York Times and the Washington Post as it unfolded, it was neglected by historians. Survivors of Rosewood did not come forward to tell their story because of the shame they felt for having been connected with the riot. They also kept silent out of fear of being persecuted or killed. In 1993 the Florida Department of Law Enforcement conducted an investigation into the case, and this led to the drafting of a bill to compensate the survivors of the massacre.

After an extended debate and several hearings, the Rosewood Bill, which awarded \$150,000 to each of the riot's nine eligible black survivors, was passed in April 1994. In spite of the state's financial compensation, the survivors remained frightened. When asked if he would go back to Rosewood, survivor Wilson Hall said, "No, ... They still don't want me down there."

The frustration of segregation, discrimination and racial violence led to the eruption of a series of riots that occurred throughout the summer of 1919 in many U.S. cities. This summer was known as the "Red Summer". During the early part of the century there was also a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1920, Ocoee, Florida was a small community of citrus groves and lumber mills 12 miles west of Orlando. There was a race riot there, but even today, there is a great deal of mystery about what exactly happened. The riot began with a voting dispute on November 2, 1920, election Day. Two whites were shot to death in a gunbattle between blacks and whites that night. Later, a white mob stormed into Ocoee and burned 25 black homes, two churches and a Masonic

lodge. At least six black people, by some later accounts as many as 50, were killed in the rampage. July Perry, a black man involved in the shooting, was lynched.

That night, and in the weeks that followed, the Ocoee area's black population, estimated at 495, disappeared. Some fled their burning homes and ran into the woods that night, crouching in underbrush to hide from the white mob, fleeing toward neighboring towns.

What are the after-effects of a large race-riot? During the 1992 Los Angeles Riots, widespread looting, assault, arson and murder occurred, and property damages topped roughly US\$1 billion. Who lost money? We as a united people lost money. We as a state, we as a nation of freedom-loving people lost money. More specifically, mostly small shop-owners who didn't have insurance, some big-businesses [such as chain-stores like Target & Sav-On Drug] , and insurance companies. It is presumed that the insurance companies and big-businesses were owned by middle-class and wealthy investors. Some looters, those who were neither caught nor injured nor killed, enjoyed a temporary financial benefit from obtaining looted goods. Local gangs, who had planned their looting schemes in advance, made some money, especially those who were able to get their hands on jewelry stores goods or electronics. In all, 53 people died during the riots and thousands more were injured. One year after the riots, fewer than one in four damaged or destroyed businesses reopened, according to the survey conducted by the Korean American Inter-Agency Council. Many residents of the black community were happy to see a reduced number of liquor stores; They figured, who needs a darn liquor store on every corner anyway, it just contributes to alcoholism in the community. Other residents were distressed to find that they would have to travel farther to find a place to buy milk, eggs, bread, and other staples. According to a Los Angeles Times survey conducted eleven months after the riots, almost 40% of Korean Americans said they were thinking of leaving Los Angeles.

After the riots, the shopping-markets that returned to the South-Central los Angeles area built their shopping centers to resemble fortresses. Properties were surrounded with high metal fences, and were gated to control the entry and exit of pedestrians and vehicles. The market owners will undoubtedly lock-down their fortified-properties in the event of another riot, or attempt to do so.

In cities where rioters destroyed apartment buildings, it was common for rents to increase after the riots, because the same number of renters were forced to compete for a reduced availability of rental units; Supply and demand drove up prices.

CHAPTER TEN:

Gun control laws restrict the purchase or ownership of guns.

"Gun control" can include:

Restricting which persons can own firearms.

Restrictions on the number of firearms a person may own, or purchase during a given time period

Requirements that privately owned firearms be registered with the government.

Bans on certain types of firearms; for example, "handguns" or assault rifles

Restrictions on where firearms may be carried, for example into restaurants or post offices

Requiring a "background check" and/or a "waiting period" to purchase a firearm

Restricting when and where firearms may be bought and sold, for example banning their sale through the mail

Requiring licenses or some other form of permission from the government to buy and/or sell a firearm

Requiring some form of permission from the government to carry a firearm in public, either concealed or openly

Laws granting special gun rights for some people, for example retired law enforcement officers, which are denied the rest of the public, which was used in several southern states.

Outright bans on carrying firearms in public

Outright bans on private possession of firearms, though this has never occurred in the United States

Guns are typically acquired for defensive and/or sporting purposes. Many studies show that more gun ownership results in less crime. Some politicians and political groups encourage gun control because it increases the dependency of voters and citizens on government for protection. The political effect of most kinds of gun control is to weaken the 'people' and strengthen the government and the criminals [especially organized criminals]. The primary supporters of gun control are the liberal media and leftist politicians. Fewer guns means greater dependency on government.

Gun control is a denial or limitation by governments of the right to armed self-defense. The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. guarantees the rights of people to 'bear arms'. Some historians assert that genocide has occurred only after gun control first disarmed the citizenry, however, there have been instances of genocide that continued in spite of armed resistance [such as the genocide against the Warsaw Jews in the ghetto uprising there during World War Two, or recent genocide in Rwanda, Africa; Admittedly, though, neither of these two groups of genocide victims were especially well-armed].

Gun control contributes to the probability of its government engaging in abuse or genocide, including the three worst instances in the 20th century:

In 1911, Turkey imposed gun control and then, from 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million defenseless Armenians were chased off their lands, and compelled to endure forced marches. Many Armenians were killed by armed bandits on these marches, others died from starvation or exhaustion, or from diseases contracted in their weakened condition. Some Armenian groups, such as the Dashnax, refused to give up their mostly-antique firearms, and tried their best to fight back.

In 1929, the Soviet Union imposed gun control and over the next 24 years about 20 million defenseless dissidents were killed. Other suffered an arguably worse fate: work-camps and gulags in Siberia.

In 1938, Germany imposed gun control and then over the next seven years 13 million defenseless Jews, Gypsies, Jehovahs Witnesses, labor-union-leaders, communists and other 'undesirables' were exterminated.

Proponents use the discredited but superficially appealing claim that fewer lawfully-owned guns somehow leads to less crime, even though guns are primarily defensive weapons.

In the United States the three primary federal gun control laws are:

National Firearms Act (1934)

Gun Control Act (1968)

Brady Bill (1993)

These laws have further been amended by other laws such as the Firearms Owners Protection Act (1986) and the Omnibus Crime Bill (1994).

Fed up with federal gun control, in 2009 States began considering (Utah) or passing (Montana) laws "making guns that are made and kept within state boundaries exempt from federal regulations" including "background checks, licensing and registration." Whether or not these laws will be upheld or struck-down by the U.S.Supreme Court still remains to be seen.

Gun control potentially causes an increase in crime by restricting its main deterrent: self-defense.

Americans use firearms to defend themselves from criminals has been estimated to occur at least 764,000 times a year. Specific examples of guns being used successfully in self-defense are easy to find. In 1982, a survey of imprisoned criminals found that 34% of them had been scared off, shot at, wounded or captured by an armed victim. When Florida began allowing its citizens to carry a concealed weapon, Florida's firearm homicide rate supposedly fell by 37% while the national average increased by 15%. The political effect of gun control is to cause

voters to become more dependent emotionally on government and more supportive of bigger government.

Washington, D.C. has one of the highest crime rates in America even though it completely bans private handguns. Switzerland, Israel, Denmark and Finland, all of whom have a higher gun ownership rate than America, all have lower crime rates than America. In fact, their crime rates are among the lowest in the Western World.

In Australia, where gun ownership was less widespread and the gun control measures were less strict, there was an immediate increase in robbery and armed robbery after the gun control went into effect in 1996.

The emasculation of the citizenry by gun control also arguably reduces the resistance of a society to intimidation, and exacerbates fear of consequences from causing offense. The anti-self-defense attitude of British authorities has also turned criminals into "victims" and victims who fight back into "criminals." One particularly egregious case involved a farmer being sentenced to life imprisonment for defending himself in his home after the home was repeatedly burglarized.

Supporters of gun control argue that homicide with guns is much less in England than in the United States, but that was true even before gun control and is likely due to cultural reasons. A study comparing New York and London over 200 years found the New York homicide rate consistently five times the London rate, although for most of that period residents of both cities had unrestricted access to firearms. When guns were available in England they were seldom used in crime.

In the United States of America, gun control has a strong racist origin and reasoning. Before the Civil War ended, State "Slave Codes" prohibited slaves from owning guns. After President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and after the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery was adopted and the Civil War ended in 1865, States persisted in prohibiting blacks, now freemen, from owning guns under laws renamed "Black Codes."

Today, "gun control" laws continue to be enacted so as to have a racist effect if not intent:

Police-issued license and permit laws, unless drafted to require issuance to those not prohibited by law from owning guns, are routinely used to prevent lawful gun ownership among "unpopular" populations.

Public housing residents, approximately 3 million Americans, are singled out for gun bans.

Gun sweeps by police in "high crime neighborhoods" whereby vehicles and "pedestrians who meet a specific profile that might indicate they are carrying a weapon" are searched are becoming popular, and are being studied by the U.S. Department of Justice as "Operation Ceasefire."

Some U.S. cities with high minority populations, such as Washington, D.C., are singled out for gun bans.

"Project Exile" began in the U.S. city of Richmond, Virginia and mandated that people arrested for technical firearms violations (note: not for violent crimes committed with a firearm, but for technical violations of the law) be tried in federal court where they would be subject to lengthy mandatory minimum sentences rather than in state court under the more lenient Virginia laws. As with many other restrictions this was aimed primarily at the city's Black residents. It has since been copied in many other cities.

Firearms, especially lower recoiling ones such as many handguns, allow any person to wield enough power to stop another person from attacking them. Many women (quite reasonably) fear the threat of attack by a physically stronger man, and a firearm could prevent many of these attacks, but gun bans leave these women vulnerable. Take the case of the "North Side Rapist" in Chicago, a city where hand guns are banned, as an example: The rapist broke in to the women's homes, and at least one of the women heard him break in and then climb the stairs. Had this woman had a handgun, she almost certainly could have stopped the rapist before it was too late. This would have prevented her from enduring such a horrific crime, as well as preventing the rapist's future victims from experiencing the same thing. Instead, Chicago law prevented her from being able to defend herself, and gave the advantage to the rapist/home-invader. This is not an isolated incident, and similar events happen every day across the country.

This writer suggests that the time has come for a new kind of gun-control. Guns don't kill people, bullets kill people. This writer suggests that the Federal Government impose a stiff tax of twenty dollars per bullet. This would deter gun use. Hunters of ducks, pheasants and grouse, however, should be allowed to apply for rebates for bird-shot shells used in hunting these birds, so long as they can supply the required rebate paperwork to the Federal Government showing where and how they used the bird-shot shells. Let the deer, elk and bear hunters pay the bullet tax or use bow and arrow; Bow hunting is said to be more fun and more challenging anyway. Anyone brave enough and crazy enough to go hunting grizzlies can use bow and arrow and bowie knife also, or pay the stiff bullet tax. If they're crazy enough to hunt grizzlies in the first place, they're probably crazy enough to do it with bow and arrow. Of course, police and law enforcement groups should be exempt from the stiff 'bullet tax'.

This writer suspects that a stiff bullet tax will reduce the number of 'drive-by' shootings in bad neighborhoods, will reduce the number of 'saturday-night-special' shootings, and will probably increase the amount of bullet-smuggling. Whether a twenty-dollar-a-bullet tax would have saved Trayvon is unknown.